

Claims**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for imaging a device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - creating an imaging server policy wherein the imaging server policy comprises at least one rule for enabling an image server to provide at least one image to the device;
 - 5 creating an image of the device;
 - placing the image of the device into a directory;
 - customizing the image to form a customized image; and
 - 10 placing the customized image of the device on the device.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of creating an optional device object wherein the device has a representation in the directory.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein at least one policy is associated with the device object.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein at least one image is associated with the device object.
- 15 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of associating the image of the device with at least one object in the directory.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of customizing the image comprises the step of storing a base image of a device in the directory wherein at least one additional 20 image is associated with the base image.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of customizing the image further comprises the step of defining one or more file sets wherein the file sets are inserted into the image.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of customizing the image further
5 comprises the step of inserting one or more application images associated with one or more user characteristics in the image.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the device comprises a workstation.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of associating the image of the device
to one or more objects in the directory further comprises establishing at least one relationship
10 with at least one policy in the directory.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of directly associating an image object with a device object wherein at lease one specified image is applied to the device regardless of rules specified in at least one policy.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein one or more rules are based on hardware
15 characteristics of the device wherein an image associated with a matching rule is applied to the device.

13. A system for imaging a device, the system comprising the steps of:
an imaging server policy wherein the imaging server policy comprises at least one rule
for enabling an image server to provide at least one image to the device;
20 a creating means for creating an image of the device;
a placement means for placing the image of the device into a directory;

a customization means for customizing the image to form a customized image; and
a device placement means for placing the customized image of the device on the
device.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising an optional device object wherein
5 the device has a representation in the directory.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein at least one policy is associated with the
device object.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein at least one image is associated with the
device object.

10 17. The system of claim 13 further comprising an association means for
associating the image of the device with at least one object in the directory.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein the customization means comprises storing
means for storing a base image of a device in the directory wherein at least one additional
image is associated with the base image.

15 19. The system of claim 13 wherein the customization means comprises definition
means for defining one or more file sets wherein the file sets are inserted into the image.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein the customization means comprises insertion
means for inserting one or more application images associated with one or more user
characteristics in the image.

20 21. The system of claim 13 wherein the device comprises a workstation.

22. The system of claim 17 wherein the association means comprises establishing means for establishing at least one relationship with at least one policy in the directory.
23. The system of claim 13 further comprising direct association means for directly associating an image object with a device object wherein at lease one specified image
5 is applied to the device regardless of rules specified in at least one policy.
24. The system of claim 13 wherein one or more rules are based on hardware characteristics of the device wherein an image associated with a matching rule is applied to the device.